Flag dedicated in 1894 for city's

By S. ROBERT POWELL

On April 20, 1894, about the time that present-day City Hall was being completed, the annual spring meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of Carbondale was held. Those present were: E.E. Hendrick, mayor; J.J. McNulty, president of the Select Council; W.J. Glennon, chairman of the Common Council; and A.W. Daley, Josiah Vandermark and J.M. Alexander, representing the William H. Davies Post 187, G.A.R. The Board organized by electing E.E. Hendrick as president and J.M. Alexander as secretary and treasurer. In **The Carbondale Leader** of April 21, 1894 (page 6) is the following report of what took place at this meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of Carbondale:

"After discussing the work to be done during the year and the redeeming of the grounds around the city building a resolution was passed requesting the councils to dispose of all outhouses on the premises that the grounds might be entirely cleared. Also requesting the city engineer to make a sketch of the ground with walks, etc., as in his judgement it should be arranged, the same to be submitted to the board for approval. Messrs. McNulty and Glennon entered heartily into the work that is being done by the board and pledged the support of councils in all matters which will pertain to the beautifying of the city."

"It was decided that ample walks should be constructed entirely around the building with a large number of seats placed at points for the convenience of the public and thus this will be made essentially the peoples' park. The majority of the benches will be taken from Memorial Park for this purpose and in the flower garden surrounding the soldiers' monument will be placed a few iron chairs. It was suggested that the vitrified brick now piled on the city hall grounds be used for the walks but concrete was decided upon as giving a handsome appearance and being more easily kept clean."

"It was ordered that the fence, fountain and vases in and around Memorial Park be painted at once and bids for the work will be opened on Thursday evening next at the store of J.M. Alexander. John Martin was again hired to fill the flower beds and vases for spring and fall as usual, also vases in front of the Columbia engine house."

"A vote of thanks was tendered to the Patriotic Order Sons of America for the large flag which they had presented for use in the park. The secretary said that the present arch was not suitable for such a flag and a pole will be procured if possible. It was the sentiment of the meeting that the flag should be used as a city emblem, one that could be raised on all public occasions, and on the death of a fireman or any city official."

The flag that was presented to the park commissioners for use in Memorial Park was given to them on Washington's birthday, February 22, 1894 in ceremonies conducted in Alumni Hall in Carbondale High School. The complete program of activities on that occasion was reported in **The Carbondale Leader** (page 2) on February 23, 1894.

In presenting the American flag to the park commissioners, Paul Berton, of the Patriotic Order Sons of America, Camp No. 200, spoke as follows:

Memorial Park in early 1900's.

"Mr. chairman and friends. We are met here on this anniversary of the birth of the father of our country to perform a very pleasant duty. Doing our duty is not always pleasant, however much that is to be regretted; but circumstanceds sometimes alter cases and this is one of the times. As I look at the earnest faces before me I remember that it is time – high time, that Americans should be in earnest if they really care for the institutions bequeathed them by their sires. A right goodly heritage it is, but I am afraid we do not rightly appreciate it."

"We are too apt to slumber while others are doing all in their power to strip us of our possessions. Washington warned all posterity to beware of foreign influence but this influence is creeping on us so slyly that even now it was almost engulfed us, and if the great majority of America's best citizens sleep on regardless of that fact, woe to our fair country. It is well that we have such entertainments as this at